

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03305 251450Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 HA-05  
/125 W

-----107963 261519Z /45

R 251449Z AUG 78  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2987  
INFO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03305

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, PQ, SL  
SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: FREETOWN 2750

1. AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND MCHENRY, ACCOMPANIED BY MISOFF BLACKEN, CALLED ON SIERRA LEONE'S AMBASSADOR, GEORGE GELAGA-KING, TO DISCUSS PUERTO RICAN ISSUE ON AUGUST 24. YOUNG PARTICIPATED IN ONLY PART OF THE MEETING BEFORE DEPARTING TO CATCH A PLANE. MCHENRY DISCUSSED PUERTO RICO AND GENERAL AFRICAN ISSUES DURING A CORDIAL ONE-HOUR CONVERSATION.

2. GELAGA-KING REITERATED WHAT WE HAD LEARNED EARLIER IN AFTERNOON FROM REFTTEL, I.E., THAT SIERRA LEONE WOULD ABSTAIN DURING VOTE ON PUERTO RICO RESOLUTION. HE EXPLAINED THAT THIS POSITION IS BASED UPON BELIEF THAT PUERTO RICO'S STATUS IS A MATTER FOR PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE TO DECIDE, AND THEREFORE, HIS GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED. WE POINTED OUT THAT A "YES" VOTE ON DEFERRAL WOULD BE ENTIRELY IN KEEPING WITH GOSL POSITION OF NON-INVOLVEMENT. ALTHOUGH HE REMAINED FIRM  
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ON ABSTENTION, GELAGA-KING GAVE FIRM ASSURANCES THAT SIERRA LEONE WOULD NOT SIDE WITH US OPPONENTS. HIS READING OF SITUATION WAS THAT DEFERRAL CURRENTLY HAD THE MOST VOTES.

3. GELAGA-KING COMPLIMENTED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION FOR ITS POSITIVE POLICIES TOWARD AFRICA, REFERRING SPECIFICALLY

TO NAMIBIA AND THE OTHER U.S. INITIATIVES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE HOPED THAT THE U.S. PERFORMANCE OF THE PAST YEAR WOULD NOT TURN OUT TO BE A "FLASH IN THE PAN." THE EFFORTS TO LIFT THE U.S. EMBARGO HAD CONCERNED AND CONFUSED AFRICANS, AND HAD TARNISHED SOMEWHAT THE U.S. IMAGE. MCHENRY EXPLAINED THAT U.S. DOMESTIC POLITICS WERE EXTREMELY COMPLEX. THE REALITY WAS THAT U.S. POLICY HAD NOT CHANGED AS A RESULT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.

4. GELAGA-KING APPEARS CAPABLE AND EXPERIENCED. HE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE COMMUNICATION WITH USUN. YOUNG

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMITTEES, VOTING ABSTENTIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 25 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PORG, PQ, SL, UNGA, COMMITTEE OF 24  
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**Review Markings:**  
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